

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted March 5-8, 2011
Margin of Error $\pm 3.7\%$

1. Below are some issues facing the country. For each one, indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling that issue.

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
The war in Iraq	12%	28%	21%	27%	12%
The economy	14%	21%	14%	44%	7%
Immigration	9%	23%	15%	41%	12%
The environment	12%	30%	17%	26%	15%
Terrorism	16%	27%	15%	31%	12%
Gay rights	15%	24%	13%	26%	22%
Education	16%	28%	17%	29%	11%
Health care	20%	19%	11%	43%	7%
Social security	13%	20%	18%	37%	12%
The budget deficit	11%	20%	15%	43%	10%
The war in Afghanistan	9%	28%	23%	28%	12%
Taxes	9%	23%	21%	36%	10%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	39%	41%	15%	6%
The economy	84%	13%	1%	2%
Immigration	47%	32%	15%	5%
The environment	43%	38%	12%	7%
Terrorism	55%	27%	13%	5%
Gay rights	22%	25%	26%	27%
Education	59%	29%	9%	3%
Health care	74%	19%	5%	2%
Social security	65%	27%	5%	2%
The budget deficit	61%	28%	8%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	41%	40%	13%	6%
Taxes	65%	28%	5%	2%

3. Which of these is the **most** important issue for you?

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	39%
Immigration	5%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	4%
Gay rights	3%
Education	7%
Health care	13%
Social security	12%
The budget deficit	9%
The war in Afghanistan	2%
Taxes	3%

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

Strongly Approve	18%
Somewhat Approve	26%
Somewhat Disapprove	14%
Strongly Disapprove	34%
Not Sure	7%

5. How much have you heard or read about the Supreme Court ruling in the case involving members of the Westboro Baptist Church protesting at a military funeral?

A lot	35%
A little	40%
Nothing at all	25%

6. Members of the Westboro Baptist Church believe that God is punishing America with war and terrorism because of its tolerance of homosexuality. They make these accusations during public protests at events such as military funerals. Do you support or oppose the right of these individuals to stage such protests?

Strongly support	9%
Somewhat support	12%
Neither support, nor oppose	16%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	47%
Not sure	7%

7. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects the freedom of expression. There are some exceptions to this general protection, such as if speech incites immediate violence. Do you think Americans have too much or too little freedom to speak freely?

Too much	17%
About right	52%
Too little	18%
Not sure	13%

8. Would you support or oppose a law that would make it a crime for people to make public comments that advocate genocide or hatred against an identifiable group based on such things as their race, gender, religion, ethnic origin, or sexual orientation?

Strongly support	21%
Somewhat support	17%
Neither support, nor oppose	18%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	22%
Not sure	9%

9. Which of the following countries do you consider to be a friend or an enemy of the United States?

	Ally of U.S.	Friendly	Unfriendly	Enemy of the U.S.	Not sure
Iran	1%	2%	23%	56%	18%
Israel	45%	22%	6%	5%	22%
Egypt	12%	35%	17%	5%	31%
Saudi Arabia	13%	33%	20%	8%	26%
Jordan	11%	27%	19%	6%	37%
Yemen	1%	12%	28%	15%	44%
Tunisia	2%	16%	20%	7%	55%
Iraq	5%	19%	28%	23%	25%
Bahrain	6%	20%	17%	7%	51%
Libya	1%	5%	31%	33%	30%

10. How much have you heard or read about the protests in Libya against Colonel Muammar Gaddafi?

A lot	52%
A little	32%
Nothing at all	15%

11. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama has responded to the protests in Libya? Asked if respondent is aware of protests in Libya

Strongly approve	16%
Somewhat approve	32%
Somewhat disapprove	20%
Strongly disapprove	16%
No opinion	17%

12. How should the international community respond to events in Libya? Please check all options that you support. Asked if respondent is aware of protests in Libya

Apply sanctions	54%
Send humanitarian aid	44%
Evacuate refugees	50%
Intervene militarily	15%
Impose a "no-fly zone" over Libya	42%
None of these	15%

13. About forty years ago, the United States spent a great deal of time, effort, and money to land men on the moon. Looking back now, do you think that effort was worth it, or not?

Definitely worth it	40%
Probably worth it	29%
Probably not worth it	19%
Definitely not worth it	12%

14. How would you rate the job being done by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), the United States space agency?

Excellent	17%
Good	41%
Fair	34%
Poor	8%

15. Given the costs and risks involved in space exploration, would you favor or oppose the United States...

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Neither favor, nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Sending astronauts to explore Mars?	20%	27%	27%	12%	14%
Sending astronauts back to explore the moon?	19%	24%	29%	15%	14%
Continuing the space shuttle program?	26%	29%	28%	10%	7%
Awarding federal grants to encourage private companies to build, launch and operate spacecraft for NASA?	20%	27%	28%	12%	13%
Ending NASA's human space flight program?	7%	11%	28%	22%	32%

16. Are we spending too much or too little on space exploration programs?

Too much	31%
About the right amount	26%
Too little	21%
Not sure	21%

17. How likely is it that commercial space vehicles to transport astronauts to and from the International Space Station will be available by 2016?

Very likely	8%
Somewhat likely	29%
Not too likely	29%
Not at all likely	12%
Not sure	22%

18. If you had a chance in your lifetime to travel to outer space and money were no object, would you do so or not?

Definitely would	25%
Probably would	24%
Probably would not	24%
Definitely would not	26%

19. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the governor of your state is doing his or her job?

Strongly approve	10%
Somewhat approve	22%
Neither approve, nor disapprove	31%
Somewhat disapprove	13%
Strongly disapprove	24%

20. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the legislature of your state is doing its job?

Strongly approve	3%
Somewhat approve	20%
Neither approve, nor disapprove	31%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	21%

21. How much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government in Washington D.C. to do what is right?

Just about always	2%
Most of the time	11%
Some of the time	40%
Almost never	39%
Not sure	8%

22. How much of the time do you think you can trust your state government to do what is right?

Just about always	2%
Most of the time	12%
Some of the time	48%
Almost never	30%
Not sure	8%

23. How much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government in Washington D.C. to represent your interests?

Just about always	1%
Most of the time	8%
Some of the time	38%
Almost never	44%
Not sure	8%

24. How much of the time do you think you can trust your state government to represent your interests?

Just about always	2%
Most of the time	10%
Some of the time	43%
Almost never	35%
Not sure	10%

25. Generally speaking, do you think that public officials care what people like you think?

Care a great deal	3%
Care somewhat	22%
Don't care very much	35%
Don't care at all	35%
Not sure	5%

26. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	30%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	28%
Conservative	4%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	16%

27. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	49%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	51%

28. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like Barack Obama as a person?

Like a lot	36%
Like somewhat	30%
Dislike	23%
Not sure	11%

29. Which of these words would you use to describe Barack Obama?

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	33%	38%	29%
Intelligent	62%	28%	10%
Religious	16%	57%	28%
Inspiring	36%	41%	23%
Patriotic	30%	43%	28%
Strong	29%	48%	23%
Bold	28%	51%	22%
Experienced	13%	40%	47%
Sincere	35%	35%	30%
Partisan	23%	58%	18%
Effective	22%	44%	34%
Unifying	16%	53%	32%
In touch	25%	45%	30%
Realistic	26%	44%	30%
Decisive	19%	52%	28%

30. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the United States Congress is handling its job?

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	14%
Neither approve nor disapprove	18%
Somewhat disapprove	30%
Strongly disapprove	31%
Not sure	6%

31. Would you say things in this country today are...

Generally headed in the right direction	26%
Off on the wrong track	59%
Not sure	15%

32. Overall, do you think the economy is getting better or worse?

Getting better	24%
About the same	38%
Getting worse	32%
Not sure	6%

33. Do you think the stock market will be higher or lower 12 months from now?

Higher	24%
About the same	32%
Lower	22%
Not sure	23%

34. Would you say that you and your family are...

Better off financially than you were a year ago	14%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	43%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	38%
Not sure	5%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	March 5-8, 2011
Target population	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's PollingPoint panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by age, gender, race, education, and region) was selected from the 2005–2007 American Community Study. Voter registration, turnout, religion, news interest, minor party identification, and non-placement on an ideology scale, were imputed from the 2008 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement and the Pew Religion in American Life Survey. Matching respondents were selected from the PollingPoint panel, an opt-in Internet panel.
Weighting	The sample was weighted using propensity scores based on age, gender, race, education, news interest, voter registration, and non-placement on an ideology scale. The weights range from 0.5 to 5.2, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.64.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.7% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	29 questions not reported.